

REMARKS

At the outset, the Examiner is thanked for the thorough review and consideration of the pending application. The office action dated January 7, 2004 has been received and its contents carefully reviewed.

Applicants thank the Examiner for allowing claims 27 and 28 and indicating that claims 3, 5-8, 10-13, 16, 18-21, and 23-26 include allowable subject matter.

In the Office Action, claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application 2002/0021400 A1 to Lyu et al. in view of U.S. Patent 5,612,801 to Winker in view of U.S. Patent 5,956,111 to Fujita et al. further in view of U.S. Patent 6,181,400 to Yang et al. further in view of U.S. Patent 6,342,934 to Kameyama et al. further in view of U.S. Patent 6,266,114 to Skarohlid et al. further in view of U.S. Patent 5,589,963 to Gunning et al. In addition, claims 14 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application 2002/0021400 A1 to Lyu et al. in view of U.S. Patent 5,589,963 to Gunning et al. further in view of U.S. Patent 5,956,110 to Fujita et al. further in view of U.S. Patent 6,181,400 to Yang et al. further in view of U.S. Patent 6,342,934 to Kameyama et al. further in view of U.S. Patent 6,177,153 to Uchiyama et al. further in view of U.S. Patent 5,050,965 to Conner et al. further in view of U.S. Patent 6,266,114 to Skarohlid et al.

Applicants rewrite claims 3 and 16 in independent form, and amend claims 2, 5-7, 10 and 13 to depend from claim 3. Applicants amend claims 18-20, 23, 24, and 26 to depend from claim 16.

Accordingly, claims 3 and 16 and their respective dependent claims are in condition for allowance.

Applicants believe the foregoing amendments place the application in condition for allowance and early, favorable action is respectfully solicited.


If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at (202) 496-7500 to

discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. §1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Dated: April 7, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

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